

<p>PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT</p> <p>Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231</p>	Attorney Docket	CONN015CON
	First Named Inventor	Schwabe et al.
	Application Number	Unassigned
	Filing Date	Even Date Herewith
	Group Art Unit	Unassigned
	Examiner Name	Unassigned
	Title	RELAXIN-LIKE FACTOR AND METHODS AND USES THEREOF

Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the patent application identified above. Prior to examination of the subject application, please enter the following amendments to the specification and claims:

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1 beneath the title please add the following paragraph as follows:

--CROSS REFERENCES

This application is a continuation of application serial no. 09/041,491, filed March 12, 1998, which application is a divisional of serial no. 08/484,219, filed June 7, 1995 both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety and to which applications we claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §120.--;

On page 1, line 5, please change "48829" to --48893--;

On page 2, lines 32-33, replace "Serial Nos. 07/908,766" with --Patent Nos. 5,464,756--;

On page 2, line 33, replace "U.S. Serial No. 08/080,352 (PCT US94/699)" with --PCT US94/06997--;

On page 3, lines 1-2, replace "U.S. Serial No. 07/902,637 (PCT US92/06927)" with --PCT US92/06927--;

On page 3, lines 3-4, replace "Serial No. 08/050,745" with --Patent No. 5,451,572--;

On page 6, line 20, after "factor, insert the phrase --(SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4)--;

On page 6, line 21, after "relaxin", insert the phrase --(SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:5)--;

On page 6, line 21, after "insulin", insert the phrase --(SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:6)--;

On page 8, lines 26-27, replace "Serial Nos. 07/908,766" with --Patent No. 5,464,756--;

On page 8, lines 27-28, replace "U.S. Serial No. 08/080,354 (PCT US94/0699)" with --PCT US94/06997--;

On page 8, line 35, after "FIG. 1" add --SEQ ID NOS:3 and 4--;

On page 9, line 16, replace "Arg XXX Arg" with --two Arg residues separated by three amino acids--;

On page 10, line 29, after "Arg)" insert --(amino acid residues 13 to 17 of SEQ ID NO:5)--;

On page 11, line 34, replace "Serial Nos. 07/908,766" with -- Patent No. 5,464,756--;

On page 11, line 35, replace "08/080,354 (PCT US94/0699)" with --PCT US94/06997--;

On page 12, lines 30-31, replace "Serial Nos. 07/908,766" with -- Patent No. 5,464,756--;

On page 12, lines 31-32, replace "08/080,354 (PCT US94/0699)" with --{CT US94/06997--;

On page 13, lines 28-30, replace "Applications entitled 'Method for Treatment of Hair Loss' and 'Method for Treatment of Depression' both of which are" with --Serial No. 08/483,476--;

On page 14, line 9, after "filed concurrently herewith," add --on June 7, 1995, U.S. Serial No. 08/488,399--;

On page 23, line 19, delete the word "allowed";

On page 23, line 19, replace "Serial No. 08,050,745" with --Patent No. 5,451,572--;

On page 25, line 30, replace "Nos." with --No.--;

On page 25, line 30-31, replace "U.S. Application Serial Nos. 07/902,637 (PCT US92/06927)" with --PCT US92/06927--;

On page 25, line 32, replace "08/050,745 (allowed)" with --U.S. Patent No. 5,451,572--;

On page 25, lines 33-35, delete the phrase ", entitled 'Method for Treatment of Hair Loss' and 'Method for Treatment of Depression"'; and

On page 35, line 19, replace "Arg XXX Arg" with --two Arg residues separated by three amino acids--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original claims 1-13 and add the following new claims 14-17.

14. (New) A method of decreasing collagen synthesis, comprising:
administering to cells of a human expressing relaxin receptors, synthetic relaxin like factor; and
allowing the relaxin like factor to contact the receptors for a period of time and under conditions
such that the receptors are activated, and collagen synthesis is decreased;

the relaxin like factor comprising an A chain and a B chain,

said A chain having the amino acid sequence:

Ala-Ala-Ala-Thr-Asn-Pro-Ala-Arg-Tyr-Cys-Cys-Leu-Ser-Gly-Cys-Thr-Gln-Gln-Asp-Leu-Leu-Thr-Leu-Cys-Pro-Tyr (SEQ ID NO:3)

or said amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:3) truncated by up to about 6 amino acids from the N-terminus and/or by up to 6 amino acids from the C-terminus;

said B chain having the amino acid sequence:

Pro-Thr-Pro-Glu-Met-Arg-Glu-Lys-Leu-Cys-Gly-His-His-Phe-Val-Arg-Ala-Leu-Val-Arg-Val-Cys-Gly-Gly-Pro-Arg-Trp-Ser-Thr-Glu-Ala (SEQ ID NO:4)

or said amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4) truncated by up to 5 amino acids from the N-terminus and/or by up to 5 amino acids from the C-terminus;

said A and B chains linked by disulfide bonds between amino acid residue number 11 of SEQ ID NO:3 amino acid number 10 of SEQ ID NO:4.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the synthetic relaxin like factor is attached to a detectable label.

16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the synthetic relaxin like factor is chemically synthesized.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the synthetic relaxin like factor is recombinantly produced.

REMARKS UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Formal Matters

Claims 14-17 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Original claims 1-13 were canceled and new claims 14-17 were added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

New claims 14-17 correspond to amended claims 21-24 with the amendments submitted by applicants during the prosecution of the parent application amendment filed on March 2, 2001. In response to that amendment applicants received an Advisory Action indicating that an amendment would not be entered as there was no convincing showing as to why the amendment was not entered earlier.

It is applicants position that the amendments to the claims are fully supported within the originally filed application and that the amended claims are sufficient to overcome the objections and rejections raised within the Office Action dated December 6, 2000 of the parent application.

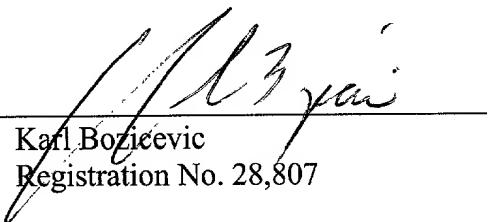
Atty Dkt. No.: CONN015CON
USSN: To Be Assigned

In addition to the claim amendments applicants have amended the specification to include the amendments made during the prosecution of the parent application serial no. 09/041,491. These amendments have been made to correct clerical errors. No new matter has been added.

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number CONN015CON.

Respectfully submitted,
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